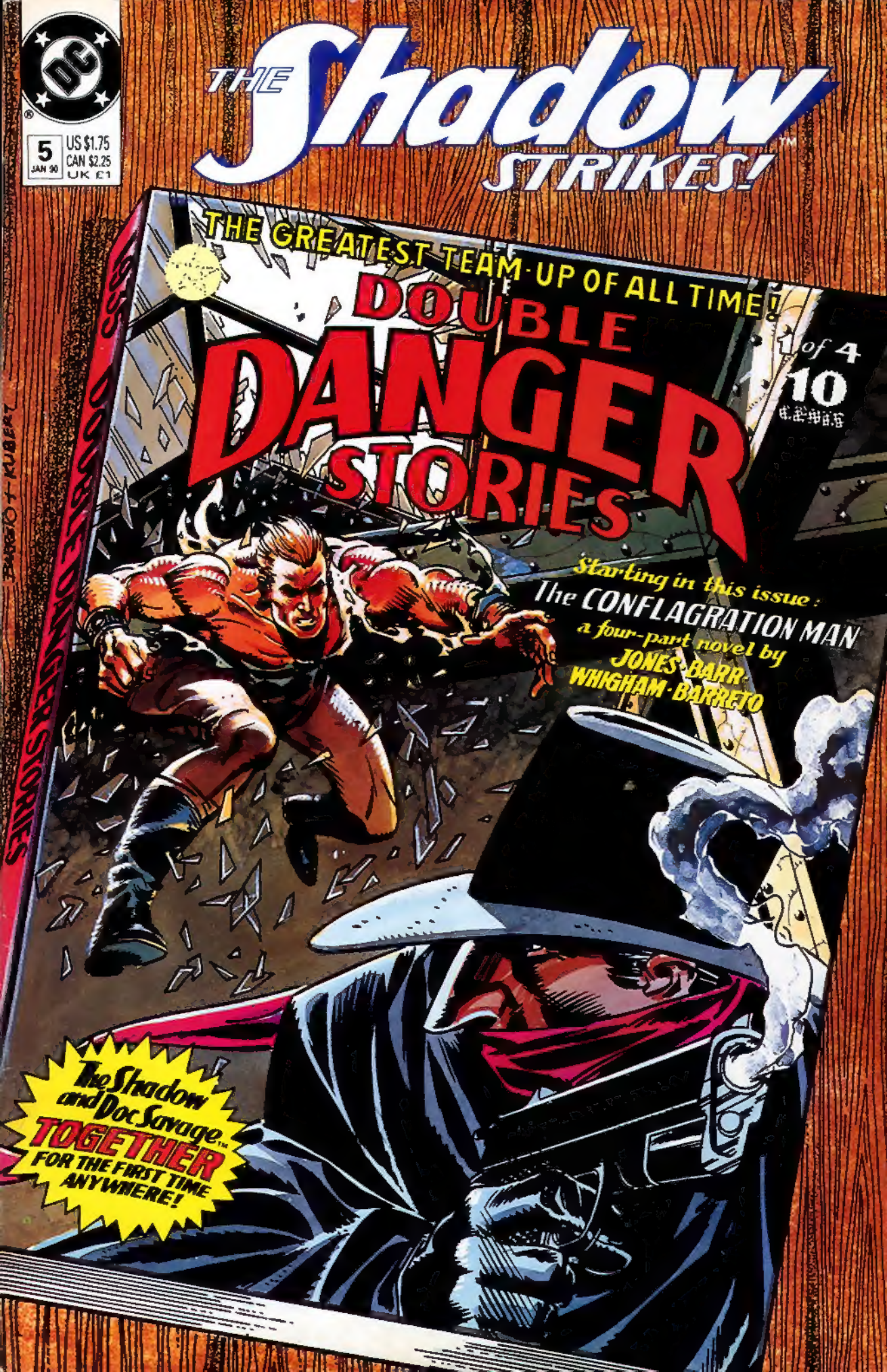
THE Shadow STRIKES!
5
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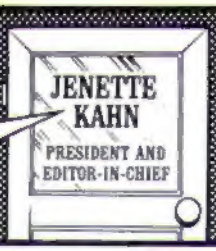
UK £1
THE GREATEST TEAM-UP OF ALL TIME!
DOUBLE DANGER STORIES
1 of 4
10
Starting in this issue:
The CONFLAGRATION MAN
a four-part novel by
JONES · BARR ·
WHIGHAM · BARRETO
The Shadow and Doc Savage™ TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME ANYWHERE!
BARRETO + KUBERT

DON'T CALL ME Chief!



It seems as though I've been traveling all summer. Several months ago, I made my way west with a legion of other comic book lovers to the annual July 4th convention in Chicago. One month later, I flew to San Diego to join hundreds of people from the comic book community for the annual convention there.

In between these two major summer conventions and for weeks after San Diego, I still found myself at an airport or in a plane or unpacking in a too familiar hotel room. Almost always, these planes were headed to Los Angeles where I spent the greater part of my time with Warner Bros. Television and Lorimar developing DC properties to present to the networks for possible airing in the fall of 1990.

By the time the summer was over, I was feeling the wear and tear of endlessly packing and unpacking, two of my least favorite activities. But there was still another annual convention that I had been attending for many years—the British Comicon in London—and I found myself debating whether to go.

The British Comicon is very special. To my knowledge it's always been held over a September weekend at the University of London. Artists and writers come from all over Great Britain, with talent like Cam Kennedy and Jim Baikie arriving from the desolate Orkney Islands at the northernmost tip of Britain and Grant Morrison (DOOM PATROL, ANIMAL MAN, and ARKHAM ASYLUM) traveling all the way from Scotland.

It's wonderful to spend time with the British freelancers. They have proven to be among our most valuable contributors. And they are such a friendly, warm, and interesting group of people.

I'd been going to the British Comicon for many years, first by myself and later with vice-president of editorial, Dick Giordano, and group editor Karen Berger. Several years ago, Dick and I gave Karen the assignment of liaison with the British talent. She had done such an outstanding job that this year Dick, in anticipation of the birth of his first grandchild, felt totally comfortable staying home. I, too, having total confidence in Karen, waffled about going.

It was Marv Wolfman who convinced me that I should not break with tradition but should pack one more time and head over the Atlantic. Marv, as you know, recently became the regular writer on BATMAN. Marv lives in L.A., which is a far cry from DETECTIVE writer Alan Grant who lives in England with his wife, Sue. Denny O'Neil, editor of both books and justifiably one of the most renowned Batman writers himself, is in New York. Denny, Marv, and Alan had decided to meet two days before the British Comicon to plan the BATMAN and DETECTIVE issues for 1990.

Year in, year out, Batman has always been voted favorite character by thousands of comic book fans. As those of you who read these editorials know, he has been my favorite since childhood as he is Dick's and Denny's as well. I think the Dark Knight teams are top-notch, with Marv and Jim Aparo on one book and Alan and Norm Breyfogle on the other. But I always have a lot to say about our Batman comics. No matter how good they are, I want them to be better. The recipient of many of my comments after an issue has already been drawn, Marv urged me to come share my views at the formative stage.

One sunny morning early in September, Denny, Alan, and Marv arrived in my London hotel room to start our brainstorming on Batman. Denny and I had isolated a number of issues we wanted to address. Now that Tim Drake was on the scene, we wanted to make sure we developed him in relation to both Bruce and Alfred. It was important to us that—over time—both Bruce and Tim would be visibly affected by each other's presence.

Denny and I also wanted to reach consensus on which secondary characters to develop during 1990. We felt that too often in our books, Commissioner Gordon had been a stock character with two-dimensional responses. If you enjoyed the fuller presentation of Gordon in BATMAN: YEAR ONE, you'll be delighted by the very human portrait of Gordon that emerges in both DETECTIVE and BATMAN in the next year.

The Batman movie gave us a Vicki Vale who was at a major peak in her career. Next year's BATMAN and DETECTIVE will show Vicki at an earlier stage in her life as she tries to carve a name for herself as a photojournalist. She'll be taking on an exceedingly dangerous villain and Batman will become deeply disturbed that she's in way over her head.

Another concern of Denny's and mine was to make sure that next year DETECTIVE and BATMAN reinforced each other. Alan and Marv were totally open to this. We weren't looking for the totally intense continuity that characterizes the Superman books; we just wanted to make sure that if Alfred has a broken arm in BATMAN, he's still nursing that broken arm in DETECTIVE.

Also on our agenda was which villain or villains we should focus on for 1990. We couldn't let the year go by without bringing back the Joker. But all of us realized that this time the stakes would be higher than they've ever been. After all, last year in the best-selling A DEATH IN THE FAMILY, the Joker had killed Jason Todd. Since next year's Joker story will be launched in BATMAN, Denny and I agreed that we would go out to L.A. to see Marv so that together we would plot a truly fantastic Joker story.

Meanwhile, assistant editor Dan Raspler had put together a 45-page presentation of Batman's villains so that everyone working on the future Batman movies would have an invaluable resource on which to draw. It proved to be a rich lode, not just for Warner Bros. to mine, but for Alan, Marv, Denny, and me as well.

We decided to focus on the Penguin as the most important villain—next to the Joker, of course—that Batman will encounter next year. The problem was, it was hard to take the Penguin seriously. For about five decades he'd been a superficial aggregation of gimmicks without any real motivation or modus operandi. We gave him both without discarding any of the eccentricities for which Batman fans have embraced the Man of a Thousand Umbrellas. Eager to cast the new and formidable Penguin into a starring role, we agreed that he will be the centerpiece of at least five comics in 1990.

This trip was a total success. All four of us left tired but exhilarated, eager to see our plans come to fruition. Of course, with the Batman movie having taken the world by storm, all Batman books are flying off the shelves. But we at DC are dedicated to giving you the best comics possible, with or without Batmania. Stick with us. We'll give you countless reasons to read DC.

—Jenette

DC LIST
THIS WEEK

DEADMAN: LOVE AFTER DEATH 2
Deadman battles deadly beasts and fearsome freaks when he attempts to free his newfound love from the hands of the demented ringmaster. ★▶▲

THE QUESTION 34
Will Hub City continue to remain peaceful . . . or is something festering that could finally destroy Myra and her city? ◆▶▲

THE SHADOW STRIKES! 5
"Twin Trails" presents the four-part crossover featuring the first-ever meeting of The Shadow and Doc Savage! ■▶▲

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 14
The young Cat Lord . . . kidnapped by bounty hunters! ■▶

DR. FATE 13
Wotan has beaten Dr. Fate in combat and is now set on taking over the world. ■▶

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 3
A man is killed during a strange theft, and soon The Batman finds himself pitted against an almost ethereal foe. ◆▶▲

NEW GODS 12
The conclusion of "Bloodlines," as Orion makes the ultimate decision! ■▲

THE PHANTOM 11
The Phantom fights to save a drought-ravaged nation. ■▶

GREEN ARROW 28
The Warlord has the drop on Green Arrow . . . and just who is trying to kill Oliver Queen? ■▶▲

CAPTAIN ATOM 37
Captain Atom absorbs a huge jolt of energy, bumping him 24 hours into the future. Now he must learn what happened or lose everything. ●

JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE 10
What happened to Power Girl? Will Red Fox join the JLI? And what about Metamorpho's baby? ●

SUICIDE SQUAD 37
The Red Shadows, the USSR's answer to the Squad, is formed; while in New Orleans, the coils of the LOA tighten—and the mad pie thrower is revealed! ●

ACTION COMICS 649
Concluding the Brainiac trilogy, Brainiac is reborn in time for a battle against the Man of Steel—mind and muscle! ●

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Sol's Deluxe BURLESK
50
ELITE CAFE
DOMINIC "BOXCARS" CADIROLLI. MAKING HIS ROUNDS. COLLECTING PROTECTION PAYMENTS.
HYUHH
CHOOM
SHLOMO "THE GOY" ASHKENAZY. DANCING WITH HIS MISTRESS, NIGHTCLUB SINGER EVELYN LAND.

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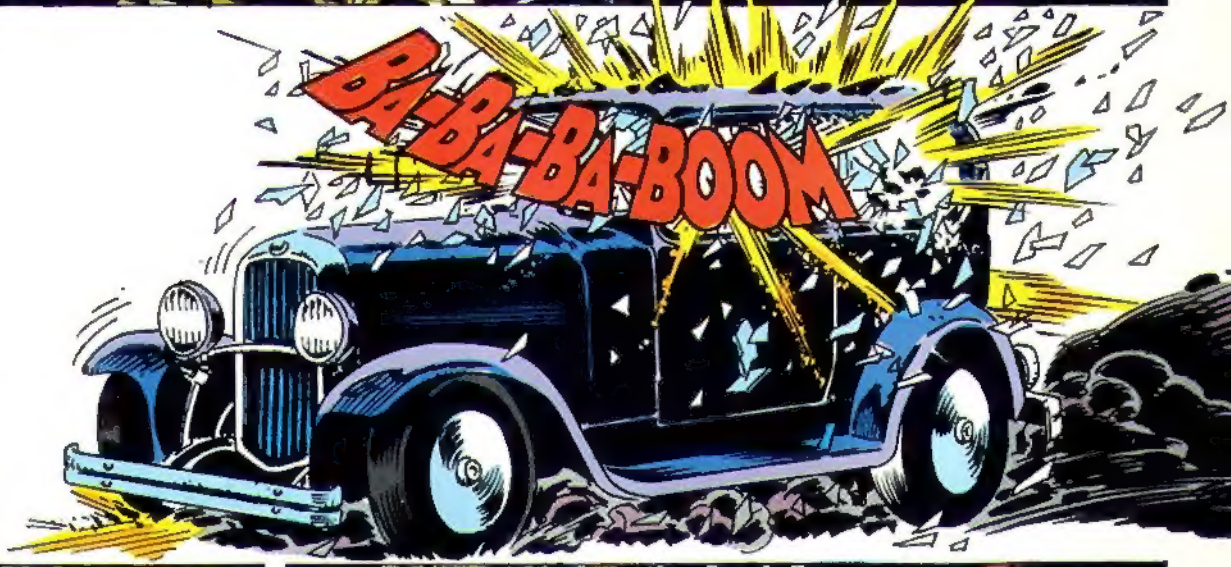
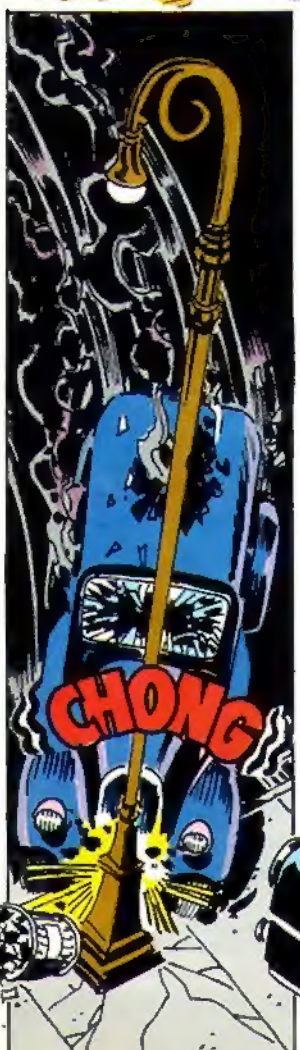
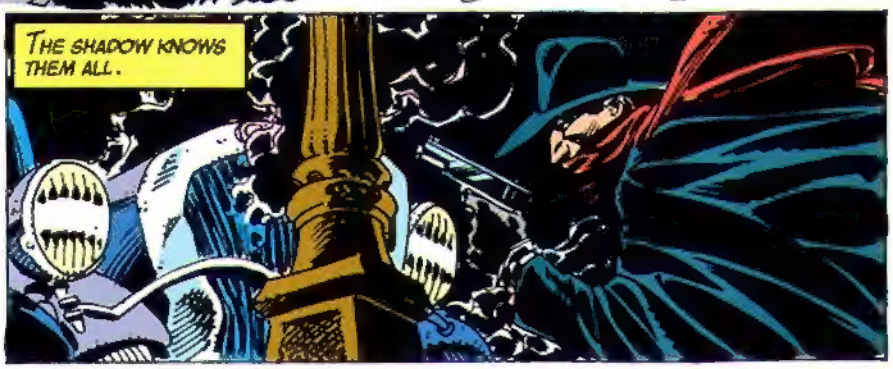
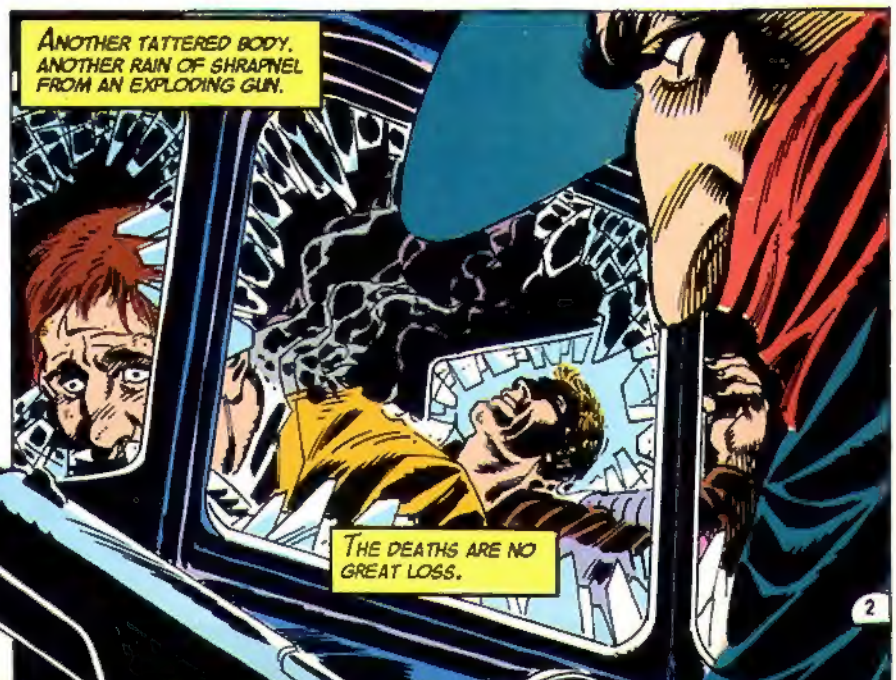
VISITING A FORMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATE.
POT O' SHANNON

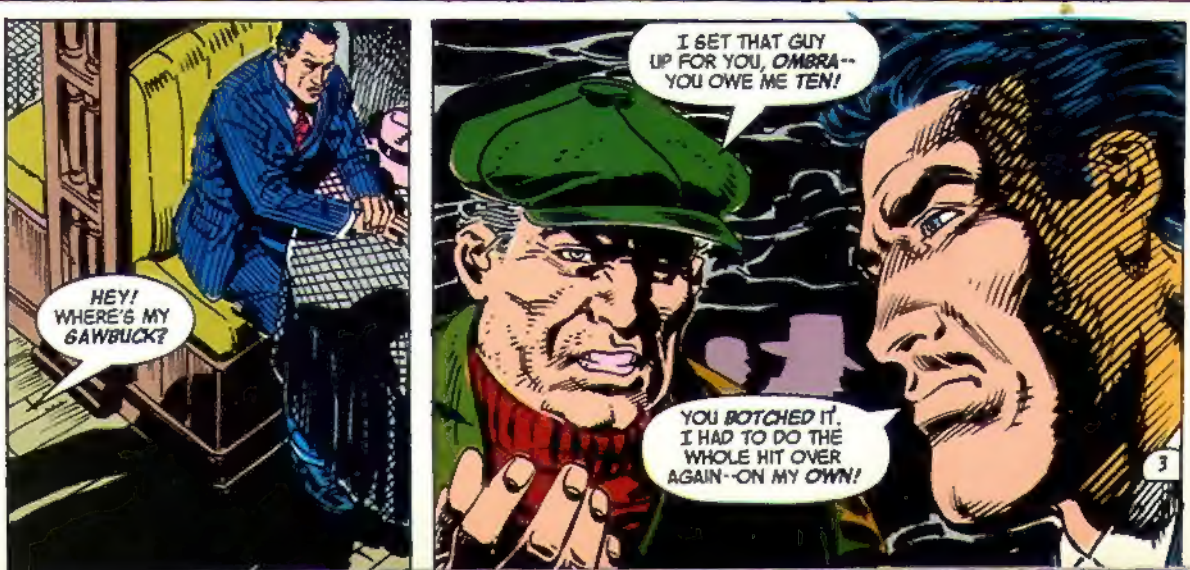

BA-BA-BA-BOOM


CHONG


THE SHADOW KNOWS THEM ALL.


ANOTHER TATTERED BODY. ANOTHER RAIN OF SHRAPNEL FROM AN EXPLODING GUN.
THE DEATHS ARE NO GREAT LOSS.

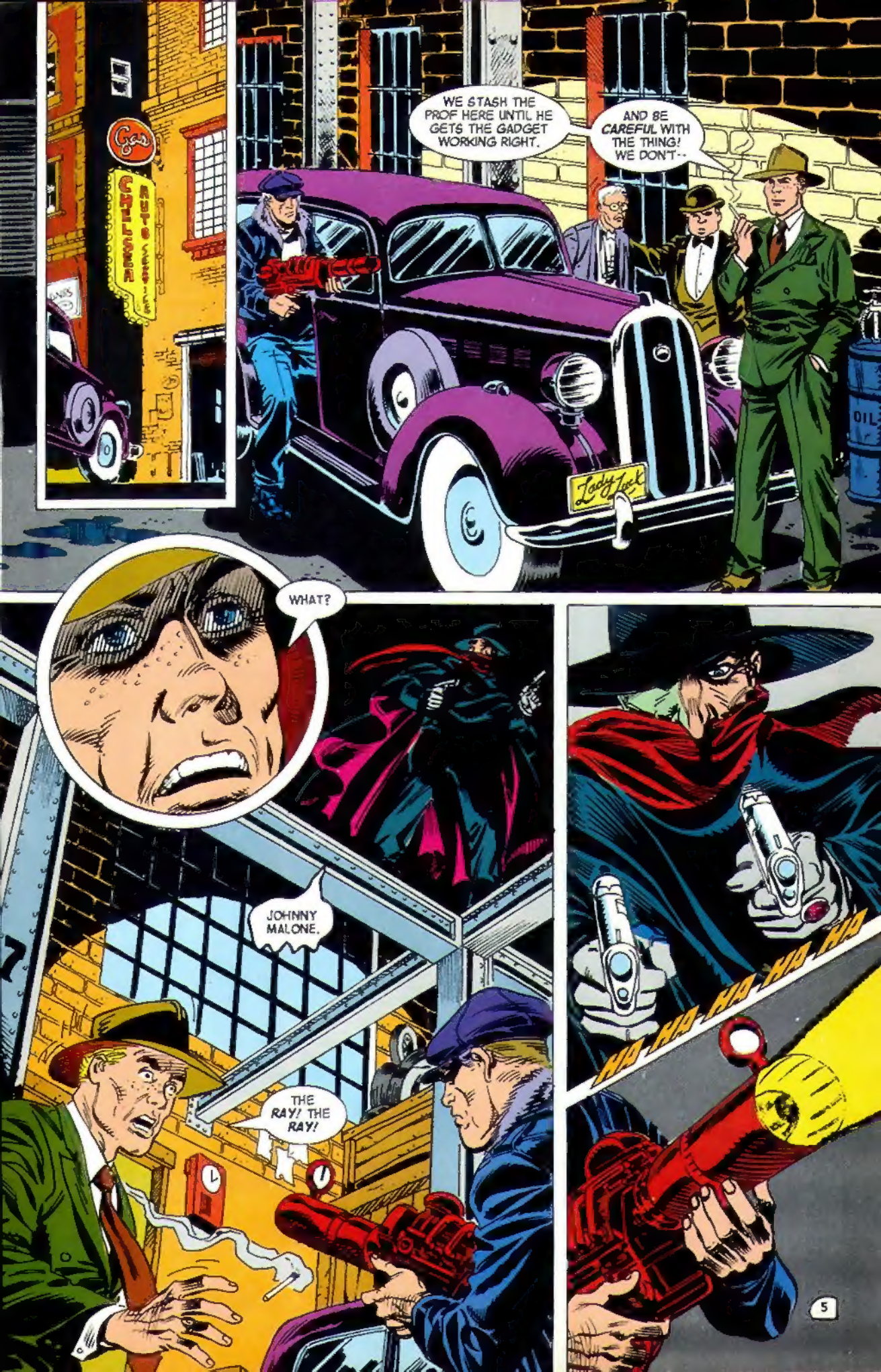
BUT THEY ARE TOO PECULIAR TO IGNORE.
BLACK PETE'S
LIVE MUSIC
...CRAP GAME IN THE BILTMORE BASEMENT...
...CAN'T HUSTLE NOTHIN' SINCE REPEAL...
...KNOW A GUY SELLIN' GATS...


HEY! WHERE'S MY SAWBUCK?
I SET THAT GUY UP FOR YOU, OMBRA-- YOU OWE ME TEN!
YOU BOTCHED IT. I HAD TO DO THE WHOLE HIT OVER AGAIN--ON MY OWN!

LISTEN, YOU--
WHAT IS IT, CHIEF?
CADIROLLI, ASHKENAZY, VISCONTI. BOOBY-TRAPPED WEAPONS. WHO?

WAY I HEAR IT, JOHNNY MALONE'S MAKING A MOVE TO TAKE HIS OLD TERRITORY BACK.
NOBODY TREATS HAWKEYE LIKE THIS! YOU GET ME?

FORGET IT. I'LL GO SOMEPLACE ELSE-- WITH A BETTER CLASS OF THUG.


WE STASH THE PROF HERE UNTIL HE GETS THE GADGET WORKING RIGHT.
AND BE CAREFUL WITH THE THING! WE DON'T--
Lady Luck
WHAT?
JOHNNY MALONE.
THE RAY! THE RAY!
HA HA HA HA HA
5

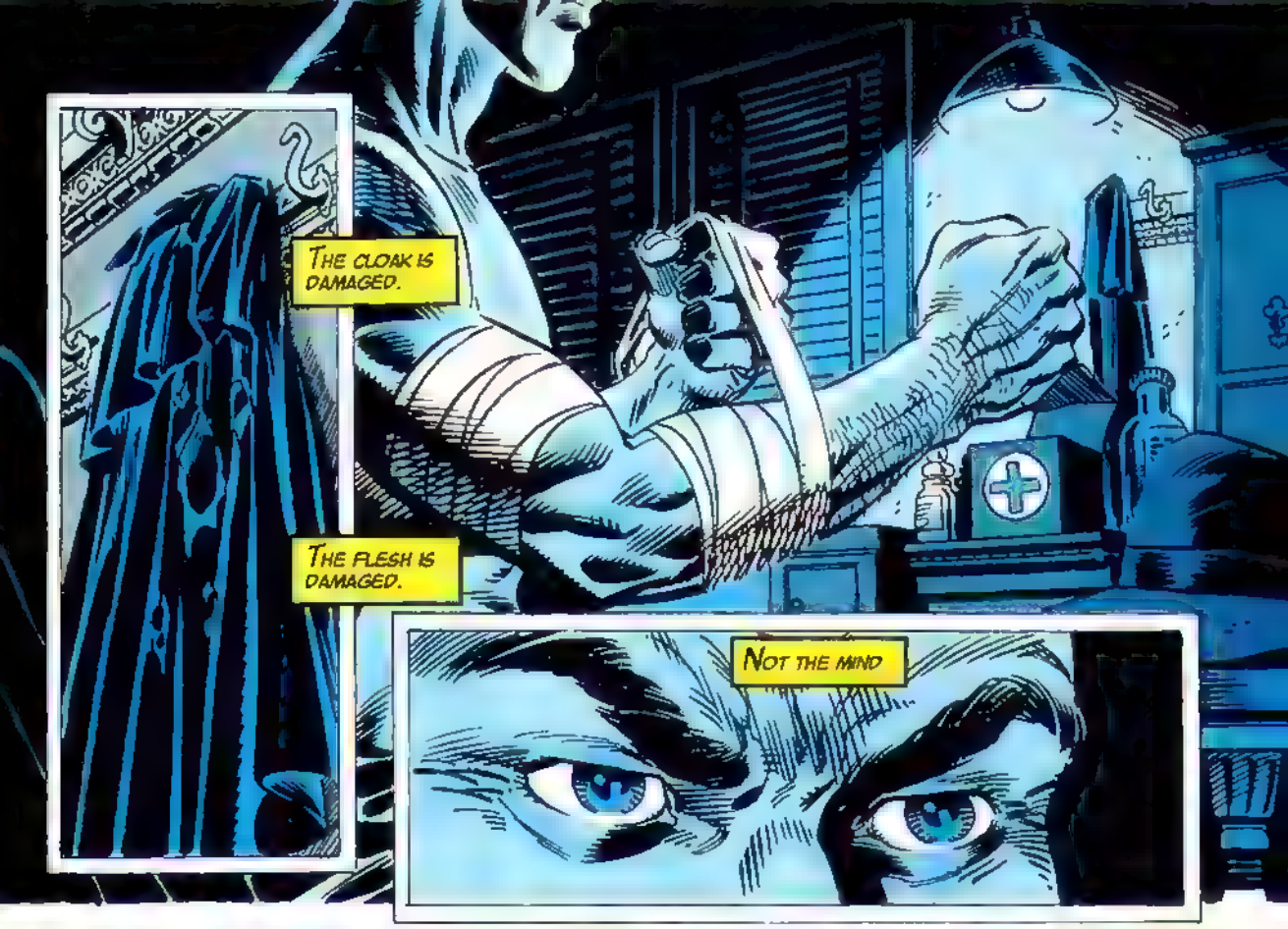
GERARD JONES WRITER	MIKE W. BARR CO-PLOTTER	ROD WHIGHAM LAYOUTS	EDUARDO BARRETO FINISHER
DAVID CODY WEISS LETTERER	ANTHONY TOLLIN COLORIST	BRIAN AUGUSTYN EDITOR	JON PETERSON CONSULTING EDITOR

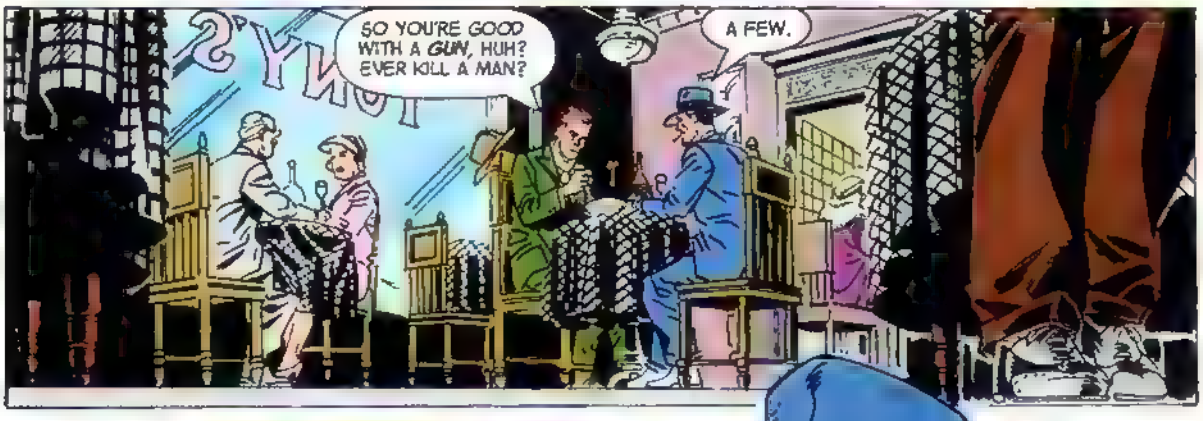
IT IS THE GREATEST OFFICE BUILDING IN THE WORLD, THE CATHEDRAL SPIRE OF THE CAPITALIST FAITH.
VIVIAN ROY HAS GAZED UP AT IT A THOUSAND TIMES, BUT NEVER ENTERED UNTIL TODAY. TODAY SHE FOLLOWS THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE VOICE ON THE PHONE, A VOICE LIKE CONTROLLED THUNDER.
THE VOICE HAD TOLD HER HOW TO FIND THE SPECIAL ELEVATOR, AND SAID HER COURSE WOULD BE OBVIOUS FROM THERE.
86
GOOD MORNING, MISS ROY. THANK YOU FOR COMING TO SEE US.
WE MUST MAKE ONE REQUEST OF YOU, HOWEVER...
PLEASE REMOVE THE PISTOL FROM YOUR PURSE.
I'M...I'M SORRY. I NEVER MEANT TO USE IT...
IT'S JUST THAT A GIRL HAS TO WATCH OUT FOR HERSELF IN THIS WORLD.
WE UNDERSTAND, MISS ROY. AND WE HOPE YOU'LL PARDON OUR X-RAY SURVEILLANCE.
SUCH PRECAUTIONS ARE NECESSARY IN DOC SAVAGE'S LINE OF WORK.
I'M BRIGADIER GENERAL THEODORE MARLEY BROOKS. BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL LEARN SOON ENOUGH THAT PEOPLE CALL ME "HAM."
7

OH...MY WORD! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE! I NEVER KNEW THERE WERE SUCH PLACES!
THIS IS WHERE I'VE DREAMED OF BEING... WAY UP HIGH...
IF YOU'LL HAVE A SEAT, DOC WILL BE--
...LOOKING DOWN ON EVERYTHING.
BUT IT MUST TAKE SO MUCH MONEY.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE A LITTLE SHORT ON THE GREEN, EH, KID?
DON'T LET HIM FRIGHTEN YOU. THIS IS "MONK" MAYFAIR. HE'S BEEN STAYING HERE SINCE WE RESCUED HIM FROM A SINISTER ORGAN GRINDER.
WELL, YOU'RE... RIGHT, MR. MAYFAIR. I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY. I COULDN'T HIRE A PRIVATE DETECTIVE. THAT'S WHY I CALLED DOC SAVAGE.
I'VE HEARD THAT HE HELPS PEOPLE IN TROUBLE. YOU SEE...IT'S MY FATHER. HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.
PLEASE HAVE A SEAT, MISS ROY. TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.
8

YOU'RE..
OH, MY WORD, ARE YOU..
PLEASE, MISS ROY. YOUR FATHER IS ISHMAEL ROY, THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, IS THAT CORRECT?
Y-YES. HE'S INVENTED A *RAY*...ONE THAT CAUSES *GUNPOWDER* TO EXPLODE AT A DISTANCE.
HE KEPT IT COMPLETELY SECRET. OR *THOUGHT* HE HAD. BUT SOMEONE BROKE INTO OUR HOME. THEY TOOK THE RAY... AND *HIM*.
SUCH A RAY COULD BE A POTENT WEAPON. THE THIEF MIGHT BE A COMMON THUG--OR A *MEGALOMANIAC*, BENT ON CONQUEST AND DESTRUCTION.
THERE...*AREN'T* REALLY SUCH PEOPLE... ARE THERE?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED AT HOW MANY I RUN INTO.
ARE YOU *CERTAIN* NO ONE KNEW OF THE RAY? HAD YOUR FATHER SOUGHT BACKERS? OR BUYERS?
NEVER! HE WAS GOING TO *GIVE* IT...TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. HE NEVER *SOLD* HIS INVENTIONS. HE HAD SOME IDEA ABOUT SCIENCE BEING LIKE THE *PRIESTHOOD*.
MAYBE YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE BIT *CRAZY*...TO BE AN INVENTOR.
HA! HOW *ABOUT* IT, DOC?
WHAT--?
IGNORE THE SIMIAN OUTBURST, MISS ROY.
IT'S JUST THAT *DOC HIMSELF* IS QUITE THE ACCOMPLISHED INVENTOR.

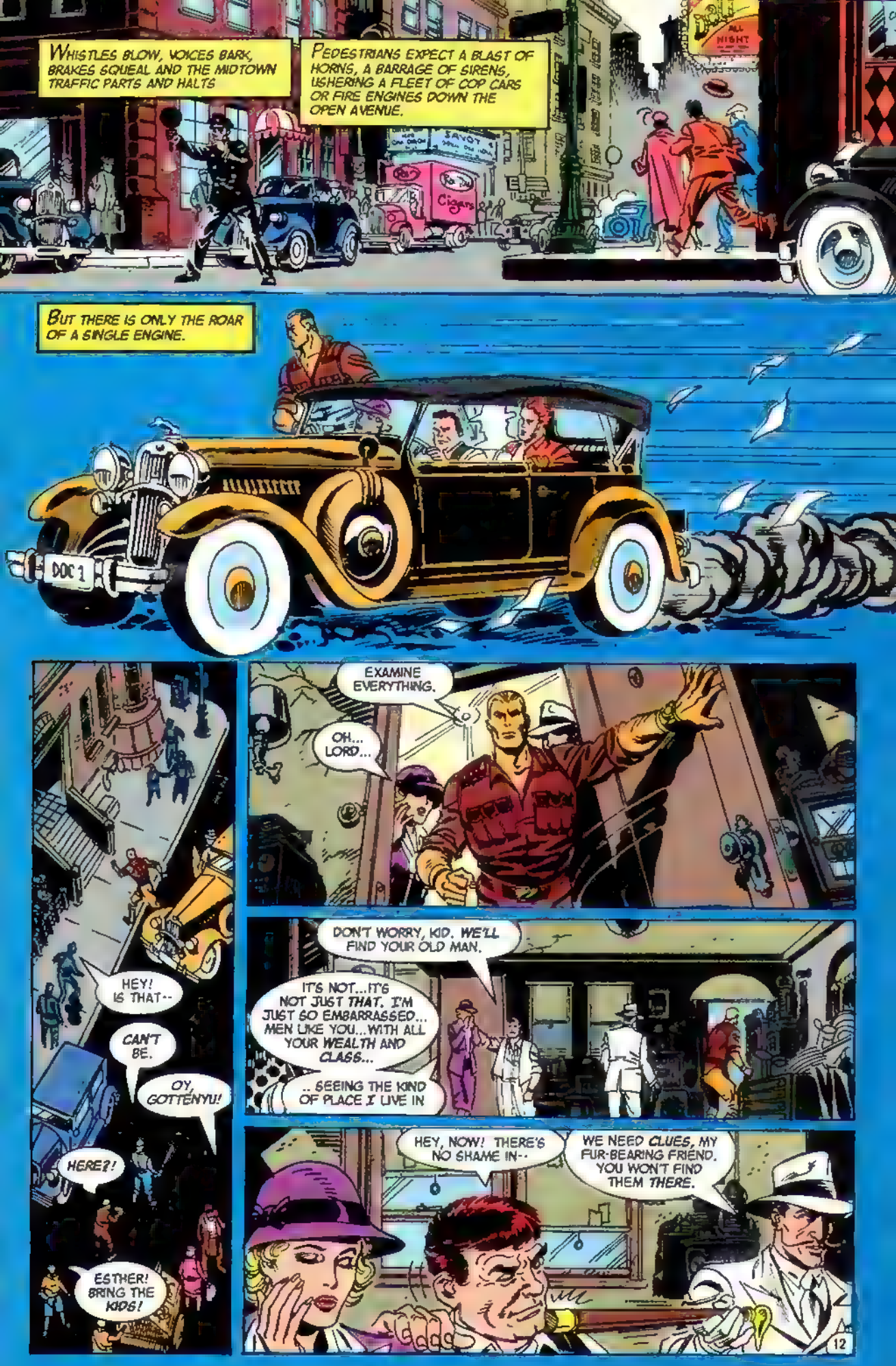
YOU--?
AND YET YOU LIVE LIKE THIS?
I INHERITED MY WEALTH FROM MY FATHER, MISS ROY. REST ASSURED, I ADMIRE YOUR FATHER'S SELFLESS DEDICATION.
THEN YOU'LL HELP ME?
WE'LL GO TO YOUR HOME. AND WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE.
GIVE ME A MOMENT
HE'S ..MORE THAN I DREAMED...
I SUPPOSE HE MUST...HAVE A LOT OF GIRLS...
DOC? NOT A ONE.
REALLY? BUT HE'S JUST WHAT A WOMAN WOULD WANT...
TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
AND WHAT DOES OUR LIE-DETECTOR TELL US, RENNY?
SHE'S LEVELLING WITH YOU--ALL THE WAY.
HELL, YOU DIDN'T NEED ANY FANCY CHAIR TO TELL YOU THAT, DOC!
I CAN ALWAYS TELL WHAT A DOLL'S THINKING.
MAYBE 'CAUSE THEY'RE ALL THINKING THE SAME THING AROUND YOU AND HAM. "GET THESE GUYS AWAY FROM ME."
WOMAN IS ONE INVENTION I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ANALYZE.
MONK! WARM UP DOC !!
WELL, I'M INDEBTED TO TECHNOLOGY.


THE CLOAK IS DAMAGED.
THE FLESH IS DAMAGED.
NOT THE MIND


SO YOU'RE GOOD WITH A GUN, HUH? EVER KILL A MAN?
A FEW.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO HOOK UP WITH ME, OMBRA?
WORD ON THE GRAPEVINE IS YOU'RE EXPANDING.

EXPANDING, HELL. EXPLODING.
EVERY RACKET IN NEW YORK'S GONNA BE MINE INSIDE A WEEK.

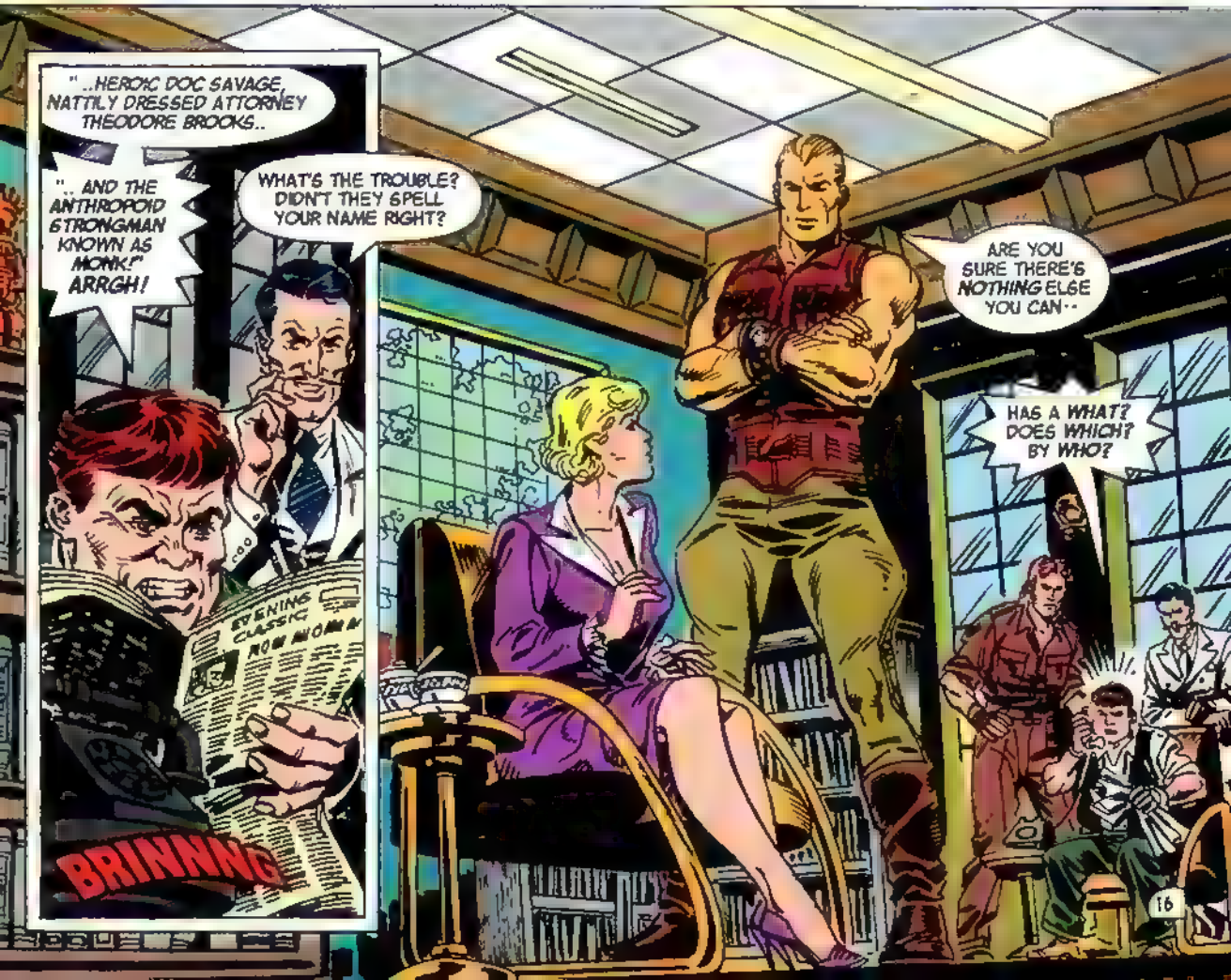

WHISTLES BLOW, VOICES BARK, BRAKES SQUEAL AND THE MIDTOWN TRAFFIC PARTS AND HALTS
PEDESTRIANS EXPECT A BLAST OF HORNS, A BARRAGE OF SIRENS, USHERING A FLEET OF COP CARS OR FIRE ENGINES DOWN THE OPEN AVENUE.
ALL NIGHT
SAVOY
Cigars
BUT THERE IS ONLY THE ROAR OF A SINGLE ENGINE.
DOC 1
HEY! IS THAT--
CAN'T BE.
OY, GOTTENYU!
HERE?!
ESTHER! BRING THE KIDS!
EXAMINE EVERYTHING.
OH... LORD...
DON'T WORRY, KID. WE'LL FIND YOUR OLD MAN.
IT'S NOT...IT'S NOT JUST THAT. I'M JUST SO EMBARRASSED... MEN LIKE YOU...WITH ALL YOUR WEALTH AND CLASS...
.. SEEING THE KIND OF PLACE I LIVE IN
HEY, NOW! THERE'S NO SHAME IN--
WE NEED CLUES, MY FUR-BEARING FRIEND. YOU WON'T FIND THEM THERE.
12

THEY SIFT THE RESIDUE OF SQUALOR AND SCIENCE. THEY FIND SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE.
NOTHING MORE.
CLYDE BURKE. CRIME REPORTER, EVENING CLASSIC. WHAT'S UP?
DOC SAVAGE IS IN THERE!
VIVIAN ROY WAS WITH HIM. .IT MUST BE ABOUT HER FATHER!
HE DISAPPEARED!
HE'S COMING! HE'S COMING!
DOC SAVAGE--KIDNAPPING-- HELLO FRONT PAGE!
I'M GLAD NOT EVERY MYSTERIOUS CRIME-FIGHTER IN THIS TOWN HAS TO GO LURKING IN THE DARK.
MOVE ALONG, PLEASE! MOVE ALONG! THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE HERE!
HE'S BIGGER'N I THOUGHT!
IT IS HIM!
MAMA, I WANT THE MONKEY!
THE OVERGROWN BOY SCOUT DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST.
Evening
SAVAGE INVESTI
CLARK SAVAGE
LONG AS I'VE GOT THIS RAY, NOBODY CAN STOP ME.
NOT EVEN THAT BIG SUCKER WHO PAID ME TO HEIST THE THING FOR HIM!
WE STILL OUGHTA BE CAREFUL, JOHNNY.

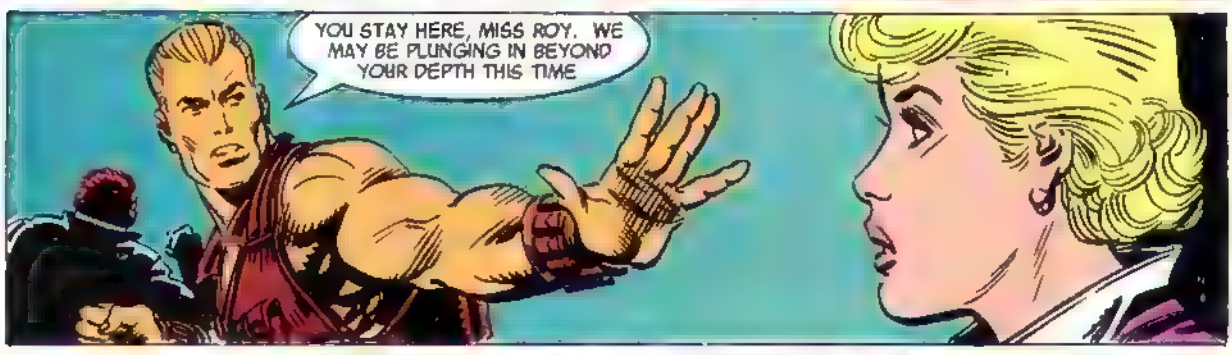
CAREFUL ENOUGH YOU WANT YOUR FIRST JOB, OMBRA?
SURE.
YOU'RE GONNA HELP WATCH THE OL' TINKERER HIMSELF. HIS RAY'S STARTING TO FIZZLE. WE TOLD HIM HE FIXES IT--OR HE DIES.
YOU JUST MAKE SURE HE DOES ONE OR THE OTHER.
IZZY!
YOU READ THE SHEETS?
MORE DOPE ON THE BRADDOCK-BAER FIGHT?
FIGHTS? FIGHTS ARE FROM NOTHING! LOOK! FRONT PAGE!
SO? I DON'T CARE WHAT DOC SAVAGE DOES. LONG AS HE DON'T MESS WITH OUR BOYS
YOU DON'T SEE IT, DO YOU, IZZY? YOU JUST DON'T SEE IT.
THE GRAPEVINE SAYS JOHNNY MALONE PULLS A SNATCH THE OTHER DAY--THEN HE TURNS UP WITH THIS DINGUS THAT BLOWS UP GUNS--NOW THIS SCIENTIST TURNS UP GONE--
WAITAMINIT, WAITAMINIT. YOU'RE SAYING DOC SAVAGE COULD BE AFTER MALONE...?
WITHOUT KNOWING IT. NU? BUT, OF COURSE, IF A PERSON SHOULD PHONE A TIP TO HIM...THEN JOHNNY MALONE MAYBE HAS A LOT MORE ON HIS HANDS THAN HE EVER FIGURED ON!

I TELL YOU IT WON'T LAST-- IT WON'T--
THE YOLSKY COIL IS BURNING OUT. A FEW MORE BLASTS AND THIS--
SO WHERE DO I GET A NEW COIL?
YOU DON'T JUST WALK INTO WOOLWORTH'S AND BUY ONE. I NEED SPECIAL CHEMICALS AND...AND...
YOU NEANDERTHALS WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
WE'LL TAKE YOU OUT SHOPPING. YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU NEED.
OH, LORD, LORD...WHAT HAVE I DONE? I WANTED TO GIVE THE WORLD SOMETHING GOOD. TO END WEAPONS. END WAR.
OH, VIVIAN, POOR LITTLE VIVIAN! DADDY'S FAILED YOU! EVER SINCE YOUR MOMMA DIED, YOU'VE ONLY WANTED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER YOU.
DON'T WORRY, PROF. MAYBE JOHNNY'LL LOOK AFTER HER ONCE HE'S BACK ON TOP OF THE HEAP! HA!
YOU JUST KEEP THAT THING WORKIN'!
BOY .
GONNA NEED THAT THING IF DOC SAVAGE FINDS US. I HEAR HE'S SOME KINDA GIANT--AND A GENIUS--AND THE WEAPONS HE'S GOT--
WATCH THE PIGEON. I'VE GOTTA HIT THE HEAD.
SURE, AL.
I THOUGHT IT WAS BAD ENOUGH HAVING THE SHADOW AFTER US--BUT I'D TAKE HIM OVER DOC SAVAGE ANYDAY.
WHADDAYOU, NUTS? AT LEAST WITH SAVAGE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING.
BUT THE SHADOW...I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S HUMAN!

LISTEN CLOSELY.
ONE CLARK SAVAGE, JR. MAY INTRUDE UPON MY WORK. THERE IS FAR MORE TO THIS CASE THAN MEETS THE EYE .. TOO MUCH TO BROOK INTERFERENCE FROM A MILLIONAIRE DILETTANTE.
MISDIRECT SAVAGE TO ONE OF MALONE'S LESSER HIDEOUTS.. WHILE I CONTRIVE A RELOCATION.


"..HEROIC DOC SAVAGE, NATTILY DRESSED ATTORNEY THEODORE BROOKS..
"... AND THE ANTHROPOID STRONGMAN KNOWN AS MONK!" ARRGH!
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE? DIDN'T THEY SPELL YOUR NAME RIGHT?
BRINNNG
ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NOTHING ELSE YOU CAN··
HAS A WHAT? DOES WHICH? BY WHO?
16

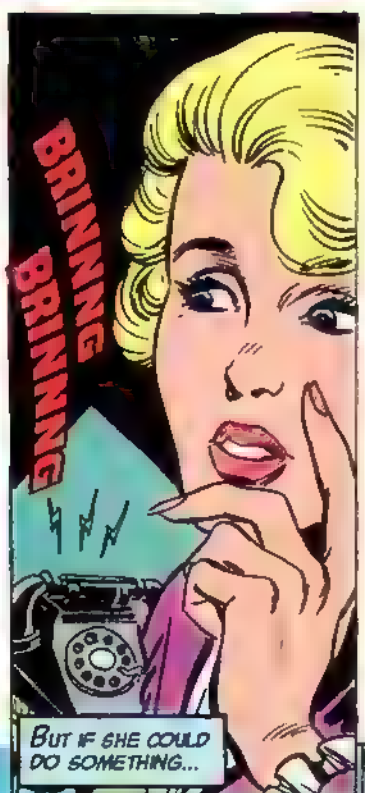
DOC! WE GOT A LEAD! A MOBSTER NAMED MALONE--
FILL ME IN... WHILE WE'RE IN THE FLEA RUN.


YOU STAY HERE, MISS ROY. WE MAY BE PLUNGING IN BEYOND YOUR DEPTH THIS TIME

THE BRONZE GIANT LEAVES THE ROOM, BUT NOT HER MIND
SHE PICTURES HIM BATTLING DESPERADOES, SHRUGGING OFF BULLETS, SNATCHING HER FATHER FROM THE JAWS OF DEATH.

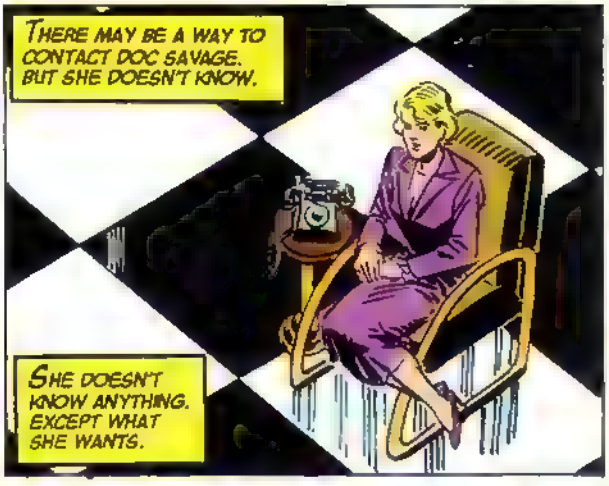
ALL SHE CAN DO IS WAIT, AND BRIEFLY ENJOY THE LUXURY OF HIS LIBRARY, UNTIL THE TRIUMPHANT HERO RETURNS...
...TO SEND HER BACK TO THE NARROW WORLD SHE KNOWS.

BRINNNG

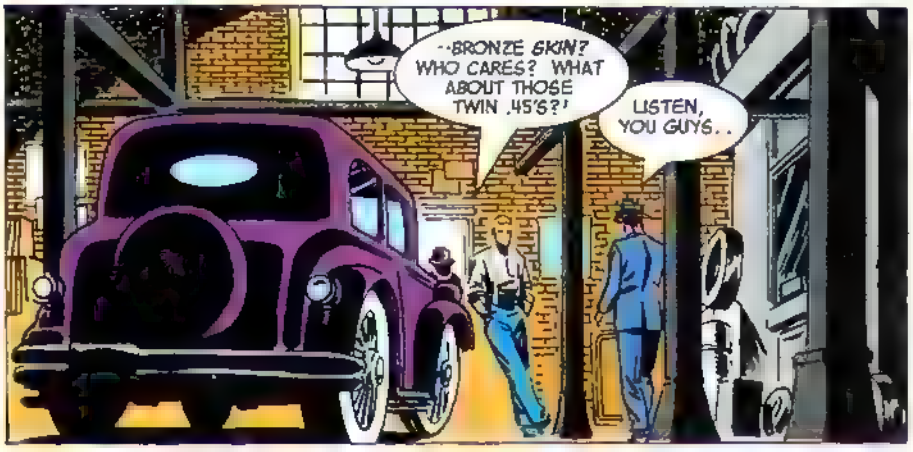

BRINNNG
BRINNNG
BUT IF SHE COULD DO SOMETHING...

DOC... DOC SAVAGE'S OFFICE.
NO, I'M AFRAID THE DOCTOR IS OUT. MAY I TAKE A MESSAGE?

GONE? DAMN IT!
TELEPHO
WELL, GET THIS TO HIM QUICK. IF HE'S LOOKING FOR JOHNNY MALONE.. THE PLACE TO HIT IS A NIGHTCLUB. CALLED THE PINK RAT. GOT IT?


THERE MAY BE A WAY TO CONTACT DOC SAVAGE. BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW.
SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING. EXCEPT WHAT SHE WANTS.

43
42
41
FUUUUUU


..BRONZE SKIN? WHO CARES? WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWIN .45'S?!
LISTEN, YOU GUYS..

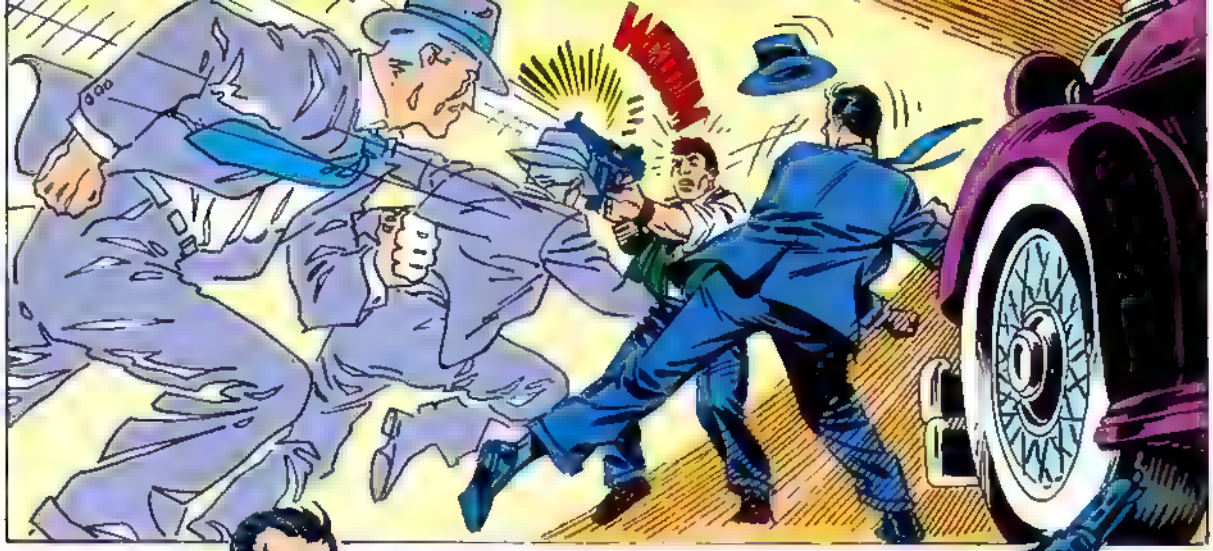
WAIT A SEC, AL. YOU GOTTA SETTLE AN ARGUMENT.
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE, IF DOC SAVAGE AND THE SHADOW WAS TO FIGHT...

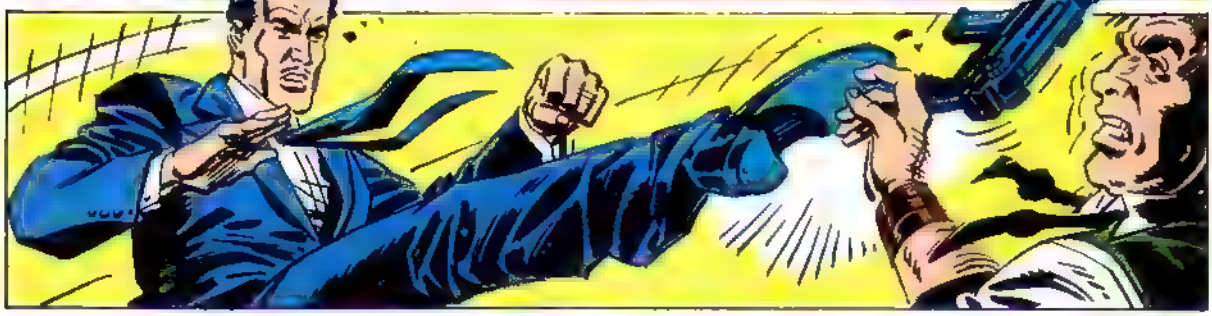
...WHO DO YOU FIGGER WOULD WIN?

HIDALGO TRADING COMPANY

I DON'T LIKE IT. WHERE'D SAVAGE GO?
I DON'T LIKE IT!
TELEPHONE
BURBANK. IT'S HAWKEYE. I THINK SUMPIN'S GOIN' WRONG!
BETTER CONTACT THE CHIEF'S OTHER AGENTS. HAVE 'EM MEET ME AT THE CHELSEA GARAGE ON WEST 25TH. JUST IN CASE
WHUP WHUP WHUP
TRADING
NOT NOW.
THE PIGEON! GET HIM IN THE CAR!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--?
CAN'T YOU HEAR HIM, MAN? HE'S COMING!
I DON'T HEAR--
HEY. THERE IS SOMETHING. WAY FAR AWAY. AN AEROPLANE!
NO.
AN AUTOGIRO!

MONK--TAKE THE FRONT! HAM--THE REAR! STAY WITH THE BIRD, RENNY!
I'M GOING IN!
--TO MALONE'S UPTOWN DIVE! I'LL COVER YOU AND JOIN YOU LATER!
GO!
KKRRS
GSH!
STOP!
YOU HEARD HIM!
SHOOT HIM, AL! SHOOT HIM!
20


WHOOM

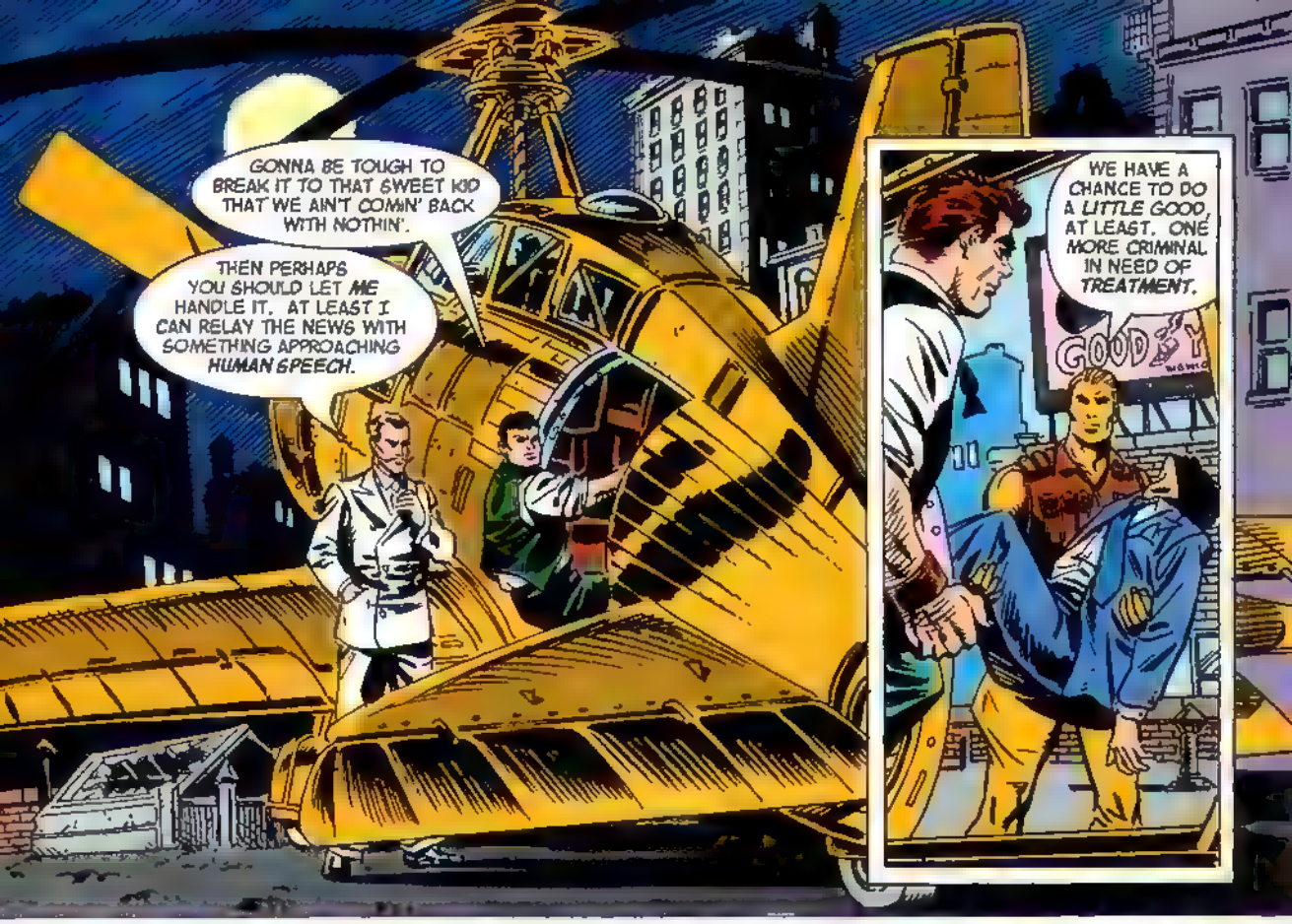


O-KAY--

STOP THEM!

NO...
21

LISTEN TO ME, CLARK SAVAGE--
WHUMMMM!
IT'S AN EASY MOVE TO DODGE THE BULLET. EXCEPT FOR ONE ARM, STIFFENED BY BANDAGES.
EVEN SO, IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND...ONLY A FEW DROPS OF BLOOD.
OR WOULD BE, WITH ANY ORDINARY BULLET
DRUHH...
THE DRUG SLAMS INTO HIS BRAIN BEFORE HIS LIPS CAN FORM THE WORD.
THE SIDEWALK LURCHES TOWARD HIM...
...AND HE PLUMMETS, NOT TO THE SIDEWALK, BUT INTO AN ICY POOL OF DARKNESS.


GONNA BE TOUGH TO BREAK IT TO THAT SWEET KID THAT WE AIN'T COMIN' BACK WITH NOTHIN'.
THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD LET ME HANDLE IT. AT LEAST I CAN RELAY THE NEWS WITH SOMETHING APPROACHING HUMAN SPEECH.
WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DO A LITTLE GOOD, AT LEAST. ONE MORE CRIMINAL IN NEED OF TREATMENT.
GOODEY

TOO LATE--TOO LATE--
CHESTER
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF B. JONAS?
CAN THE PASSWORDS! I'M HAWKEYE. YOU?
AGENTS MARGO LANE, HARRY VINCENT.
I HEARD YOU MENTIONED OFTEN ENOUGH. SOMEHOW I THOUGHT YOU'D BE BIG--
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! LOOK!
DOC SAVAGE! HE'S GOT THE CHIEF! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM!
BUT... BUT DOC SAVAGE...?

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEVOTED TO RIGHTING WRONGS--DOING GOOD--
THAT'S WHAT HE SAYS. BUT WHO REALLY KNOWS HIM? WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN HIS HEART?
NICE TURN OF PHRASE. ORIGINAL?
LISTEN, DAMN IT! THERE'S THIS. THIS LEGEND ABOUT SAVAGE THAT THE MOBSTERS WHISPER TO EACH OTHER.
THEY SAY HE TAKES CROOKS--AGAINST THEIR WILL--TO THIS PLACE UPSTATE--
".. HIS CRIME COLLEGE. HE TRAINS 'EM--TO GIVE UP CRIME, TO BE STRAIGHT ARROWS. MAKES NEW PEOPLE OUT OF 'EM.
"BUT FIRST HE DESTROYS THEIR PASTS--ALL THEIR MEMORIES--LIKE ERASING A PAGE.
"DON'T YOU GET IT?
"HE OPERATES ON THEIR BRAINS!
WELL, DOC.. ANOTHER USEFUL MEMBER OF SOCIETY COMIN' UP!
Continued in
DOC SAVAGE #17.

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L-5272

Dear Gerard, Eduardo, Anthony, David, and Brian,

Wow! THE SHADOW STRIKES! #2 is even better than #1. Rasputin, Anastasia and the whole Russian angle are making me even more curious about the Shadow's past. Leave it that way—don't do an origin! The Shadow is supposed to remain mysterious.

Eduardo's artwork is ... well, to borrow a phrase from the thirties, Ed's art is keen! I know I complained about his artwork in my last letter, but it seems Eduardo's getting more into the character. The panels on page seven made me feel like I was watching a Shadow movie.

The Shadow and Doc Savage teaming soon? That is going to be fun! I'm eager to see the Shadow's "gun-'em-down" philosophy go up against Doc's "never-kill-only-maim" approach. A couple of questions, please. Did the Shadow and Doc Savage ever meet before now? And, will this title ever feature Shiwan Khan?

Till next time, *"The weed of crime bears bitter fruit ... crime does not pay! HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!"*

Don Gates
Ft. McCoy, FL

Thanks for your enthusiasm, Don, glad you're having such a good time. But, could you knock off the spooky laughing? It makes me nervous.

To answer your questions: No, the Shadow and Doc have never, ever met anywhere else. This is truly a major event! And watch for Shiwan Khan to show up in issues 8 through 11. We're treating that as the first meeting of the two great foes.

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Augustyn,

I have just finished reading THE SHADOW STRIKES! #2 and I am quite impressed with it. It is obvious that a great deal of care and genuine affection has been placed in the development of this title. This is the definitive Shadow—the character in his ultimate form.

It is page two that sets the tone for the entire series, giving us a taste of the Shadow's singularity of purpose. It appears that he will do anything to get the job done. Gerard Jones is a writer I am unfamiliar with, but I see by the caliber of his work that he is more than up to the task of making this book a success.

I felt sorry for Eduardo Barreto when he did not receive the kind of fan approval he deserved on Teen Titans. He was not George Perez and that made the fans angry, but on the contrary, Mr. Barreto is, in many respects, a superior artist. It was the fact that the Titans were too much identified with George. As he so amply demonstrated in issue two, no one draws a better chase scene than Ed Barreto. Fortunately for Mr. Barreto, he now has this book to establish as "his own." The cover was a real eye-catcher and even had I not been looking for it, this alone would have persuaded me to buy the book.

You've got a loyal fan here—now, if only about another 100,000 people see what I see in the book, you'll be in good shape. Thanks for the effort.

Scott Pyle
Indiana, PA

Thanks for the much-deserved praise for the great job Ed Barreto is doing on this book. This much-underrated artist is very definitely making this book his own—we couldn't do it without him.

* * * * *

Dear Crimebusters,

Talk about being at the right time at the right place at the right time! Anytime someone decides to put the Shadow (the real Shadow) back in the 1930s is all right with me. Only two issues and the series is already off to a running start. Much of the success is due to Gerard Jones's tight scripting and suspenseful plots. Having taken a Czarist Russian history class, I very much appreciate the move to make Rasputin the top villain here (or is he? Why do I get the feeling that a lot more is involved here?). By placing the Mad Monk in Manhattan just as the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are negotiating a crucial peace agreement, we get political intrigue, mysticism and regicide. What more could you want? And if that isn't enough, there are the small details like Harry's "origin," Inspector Cardona's gruffness, and the fact that Lamont Cranston may not be the Shadow's only secret identity. Keep this up and you've got yourselves a winner.

As to the art, I love Eduardo Barreto's style and his attention to detail. Not too many comics artists can convincingly draw period pieces these days, unfortunately. My only complaint is that (so far) all his women look alike—Margo is lovely, but everyone else in Rasputin's captive audience seems to have the same basic build, except for the older women. The art sometimes looks a bit rushed and I suspect Mr. Barreto may be committing long term suicide by both pencilling and inking this series on a monthly basis. Rather than have Eduardo eventually burn out and leave the book, I would rather see someone else take on the inking chores. As it is, I have never seen the Shadow look so menacing before—the chiaroscuro effect really pays off.

Credit is also due colorist Anthony Tollin, who has the tough job of muting the tones to avoid garish primary colors—I think DC's "New" format paper is better suited to the Shadow's sombre atmosphere than the crisp, white "Baxter" is. Nevertheless, those silvery blues on the splash pages of issue two are quite effective.

Finally, hats off to letterer David Cody Weiss, who has proven that word balloons and letters can be tailored to fit the setting—his icy rendition of the Shadow's voice adds a touch of mystery and menace to the character. The Shadow doesn't carry those two .45s for nothing, you know.

All in all, one damn good beginning for the Shadow's triumphant return. I suspect that Brian is having one heck of a time editing this series. If he is responsible for choosing the team on this book, then his instincts are as good as the Shadow's. I wish you all success and look forward to many adventures starring my favorite crimefighter.

Now, if I could only convince DC that Doc Savage should be put back in the thirties...

Aldo Perdomo
Los Angeles, CA

Well, I don't know if my instincts are that good, but I did pick the team, Aldo. Of course, I also had to get the Shadow's okay ... You're right, though, I do have a blast editing this book—these guys are great to work with.

Any trouble you've had with Ed's art may have come from his settling into the book and into the style he has evolved for the series. There's little danger of Ed's burning out, either: knowing that he's doing the inking, he doesn't fully pencil the work, he just composes the page and does the finishing and detailing with pen and brush. All the same, however, as you notice, these special crossover issues are being laid out by Doc's regular artist, Rod Whigham, with Ed doing "only" finishes. According to Ed, this gives him a breather.

Actually, Aldo, as soon as they're finished with this crossover, Doc and his

crew will be returning to the thirties, thanks to writer Mike W. Barr and the aforementioned Mr. Whigham.

*****

Dear Editor,

The new THE SHADOW STRIKES! series is very good so far, but I have an observation to make. While reading #2, I was struck by how much more effective the first three (black-and-white) pages were than the rest of the comic. Why not try an entire issue in B&W? The Shadow is really tailor-made for that kind of look. If the readers agree, maybe the series could go to black and white. It would certainly be innovative if one of the "Big Two" put out a mainstream B&W comic. How about it?

Kevin Sharp
Palo Alto, CA

Funny thing happened when I showed this letter to ace colorist Anthony Tollin, Kevin—he didn't ask for your address with blood in his eyes. Instead, Tony looked thoughtful, then interested. According to him, the challenge of minimally coloring the Shadow's adventures is an appealing one. Keep in mind that the pages you rave over are not truly black and white, but rather monochromatically colored in shades of blue. With Tony thus challenged, we can probably look for more of that sort of thing, when appropriate, in the future.

As for a completely black-and-white comic, probably not. While it was all the rage a few years ago, that trend has definitely waned. There are just too many pointy-heads out there who feel that they're not getting their "money's worth" if they don't see color. More's the pity.

*****

Hey, Brian,

Re: THE SHADOW STRIKES! #2.

Gerard's really done his homework on this character. And Ed Barreto's artwork is beautiful as a whole, and when broken down into specifics such as pages two and seven, it's totally stunning. Anthony Tollin's hues serve to further the film noir feel of the visuals quite nicely.

Yes sir, I'm really enjoying this superb incarnation of the Shadow.

Seeya at Munden's.

Elvis Orten
Dawson Springs, KY

As always, Elv, thanks for checking in.

*****

Well, now that we have you hooked, pick up the second exciting installment of our crossover in DOC SAVAGE #17 in just a few weeks. Then head back here next issue for chapter three of "The Conflagration Man!". All brought to you courtesy of Gerry Jones, Ed Barreto, M.W. Barr, and Rod Whigham. Our thanks to Doc's editors, Mike Carlin and Jon Peterson, for keeping things running so smoothly.

That's all for this issue, folks. Thanks for checking in, keep it up. See you next time.

—Brian

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